

continued assistance until this economy can provide them with jobs they desperately want again.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must make the plight of middle class America its number one concern. Without the temporary extension of unemployment benefits under TEUC, Americans will continue to struggle to pay the bills in this still-weak job market. By extending the unemployment benefits for an additional six months, it will grant more time for unemployed Americans to find new jobs. While experts could explain various aspects about the business and economic cycles and how companies will begin hiring again in the future, this does not solve the present problem of how bread winners are going to pay bills and how food is going to get into the stomachs of children so that when they go to school, their day is spent learning and not focusing on the pain in their gut.

Mr. Speaker, to this end I submit that we not hesitate in renewing unemployment benefits and spend the taxpayers dollars on the soundest investment of all, the American worker. Its long past time that these unemployed workers get the benefits they deserve and time for us as a Congress to vote to restore the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY CLONINGER

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, as co-leader of the Honorary Congressional Girl Scout Troop, I am pleased to congratulate Kathy Cloninger, who has recently been named as Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA. Under Kathy's leadership, Girl Scouts of the USA will truly become the preeminent organization advocating for America's girls.

As a former Girl Scout I know first hand the difference that scouting can make in a girl's life. More than 3 million girls look to Girl Scouts of the USA to help them grow into talented, successful young women.

As a former businesswoman, I also know first hand the difference that the leader of an organization can make. As co-leader of Troop Capitol Hill, I look forward to working closely with Kathy Cloninger. Her vision for Girl Scouting is inspiring.

Under Kathy's leadership, Girl Scouts of the USA will complete their transition from the Girl Scouts that I knew, to the Girl Scouts that is now rising to the challenge of addressing the needs of contemporary girls with contemporary issues. From Girl Scouts Beyond Bars to troops in public housing communities, as I tell my daughter, this is not your mother's Girl Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Kathy Cloninger in her new position and wish her the best of luck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 6 and 7 on Tuesday, January 27, 2004, I was unable to cast my vote due to inclement weather, being detained Charleston International Airport with multiple day-long delays and cancellations.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 6, to extend the provision of title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall 7, Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "yea".

THE EUROPEAN POPULATION FORUM 2004

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the global community, particularly the poorest countries of the world, face significant problems in the area of reproductive health and family planning. A critical shortage of international funding for family planning exacerbates severe threats to maternal and child health. To examine current population developments, the European Population Forum 2004 was held January 12-14, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Population Fund. I encourage members of this body to take note of the following statement written by Werner Fornos, president of the Population Institute and recipient of the 2003 United Nations Population Award. The following article, which appeared in the International Herald Tribune on January 14, 2004, sheds light on the dangerous and false belief that population growth is no longer the global concern it was a decade ago.

[From the International Herald Tribune, Jan. 14, 2004]

A GLOBAL CONCERN

A POPULATION CRISIS STILL LOOMS

(By Werner Fornos)

As the European Population Forum in Geneva draws to a close, coming to grips with high fertility rates remains a daunting international challenge, particularly in the poorest countries of the world where population growth continues to outstrip resources, place pressure on the environment, and exacerbate social disintegration. Despite encouraging recent reports from the United Nations, human growth remains an issue that requires priority attention around the globe if there is to be realistic hope for achieving sustainable development.

Only 3 years ago, the United Nations estimated that by mid-century the planet's human population would have risen from about 6.2 billion to 9.3 billion. More recent figures project the 2050 population to be 400 million less than the previous estimate. When the numbers are examined more closely, however, we find that the population of the industrialized countries is estimated to

remain constant through 2050 at about 1.2 billion. Virtually all human growth will occur in the developing world, where the population is expected to increase from the current 5.1 billion people to 7.7 billion.

Considering that developing countries bear the brunt of the earth's grinding poverty, desperate hunger, disease, illiteracy and unemployment, the recent downward revision of demographic figures does not warrant celebration. In fact, some developing countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Somalia, and Yemen, are likely to quadruple their population by mid-century.

Over the past 40 to 45 years, the world's population has doubled. But annual population growth has been decreasing since the 1990's, from a high approaching 90 million to less than 80 million. These declines have spawned a pervasive myth that population growth is no longer a matter of global magnitude—a myth that is spread, unsurprisingly, by the same crowd that 10, 15, and 20 years earlier insisted that population growth was never a problem in the first place: religious extremists and reactionary political ideologues.

The irony of the myth is that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. That meeting, in Cairo, established important quantitative goals for the next 20 years, including efforts to ensure that every pregnancy is intended; to protect women from unsafe abortion; to promote education for all and to close the gender gap in education; to combat AIDS; and to bring women into the mainstream of development.

A key concern, however, is that expenditures for implementing family planning and reproductive health programs have fallen well short of the \$17 billion that the Cairo meeting estimated would be required by 2000.

Industrialized countries were expected to come up with one-third of that total, or \$5.7 billion, but by 2001 had contributed only \$2.5 billion. Developing countries and private sources, expected to spend \$11.3 billion on population activities by 2000 had contributed only \$7 billion by 2001.

Global goals for drastically reducing poverty, maternal and child mortality, illiteracy and hunger will be mere wishful thinking unless and until population growth is substantially lowered. For this to happen, the international community must clearly understand that to achieve an improved quality of life for all, now is the time to accelerate population stabilization efforts, rather than retreat from them.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD A. DUFF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Donald A. Duff, of Salt Lake City, who is retired after forty-three years of Federal service on January 2, 2004. His abiding love of this country began at the age of seventeen during his service as a seasonal postal carrier in northwest Washington, DC.

In 1959, Mr. Duff enlisted in the United States Air Force, following in the footsteps of relatives who have served this nation in every conflict since the Revolutionary War. He also comes from a long line of relatives with close ties to our capital city including a great-great-grandfather who assisted Pierre L'Enfant in laying out the streets of Georgetown and a

great-grandfather who grew the first American Beauty Rose in the White House garden. Mr. Duff's father also served as an Admiralty lawyer, working with Presidents McKinley and Franklin Roosevelt to establish merchant marine laws. The U.S. Congress and the Maritime Commission recognized his work by naming in his honor a WWII Liberty Ship, the "S.S. Edwin H. Duff."

Mr. Duff served the Air Force Strategic Air Command Headquarters as a photo intelligence specialist, analyzing satellite and U2 photography during the Cold War. In 1962, he made the initial confirmation of a Russian missile in the Havana harbor that ultimately led to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Mr. Duff also distinguished himself as a wildlife and fisheries biologist in the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management. These agencies, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Fisheries Society, and Trout Unlimited have recognized him, for his expertise in conserving native fishes and in river restoration.

He was a member of America's first fisheries scientific exchange with the Republic of Ireland in 1989. In the ensuing years, he developed a management plan for restoration of Ireland's salmon species. Ireland was later awarded 19 million pounds from the European Union for this restoration, and Mr. Duff served as the chief external advisor from 1995–2000, restoring over 200 miles of salmon-bearing rivers and habitats. He has been instrumental in providing similar assistance to other European and Asian countries during his career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Duff's achievements on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTY OF WILL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the County of Will as it is recognized as the 2004 recipient of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce's annual "Salute to Industry Award". The County will be the 28th recipient of this award and lies within my 11th Congressional District in Illinois.

Will County was first established in 1836 by an act of the Illinois legislature, which subdivided it from Cook County. The area was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians as it had an abundant supply of water and timber. Travel was facilitated by the old Sauk Trail and by the Des Plaines, DuPage, and Kankakee Rivers.

Today, the County is the fastest growing county in Illinois and the fourth-fastest growing county in the nation. According to the U.S. Census the population of Will County as of April 2001, was a little over 502,000. It is estimated that Will County's population will reach over 800,000 by the year 2020 and over 1 million in 2030.

Will County is the only county in the State of Illinois that has the County Executive System. Mr. Joe Mikan is the current County Executive. The County Board is comprised of 27 members, of which three represent each of the nine districts.

County Executive Mikan and Will County elected officials are always striving for new advances to make it easier for constituents and businesses to operate in the County. They have streamlined business procedures, opened a Workforce Services division, and developed the Will County Archives Center. The County is also pursuing co-sponsorship of the future South Suburban Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other counties in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

RECOGNIZING JOAQUIN RECLOSADO, JR., A VETERAN'S VETERAN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joaquin Reclosado, Jr., a Marine and California National Guard veteran who is the driving force behind the Annual Sunset Retreat Ceremonies held in Imperial County, California in my Congressional District.

On November 11, 2003, the Eighth Annual Sunset Retreat was conducted by local veterans to celebrate Veterans' Day. Each year, a ceremony is held for veterans, with special attention to veterans of a prior war, women veterans, and this year, Native American veterans.

The Sunset Retreat is the brainchild of Mr. Reclosado, universally recognized as "Junior". He organized the first event in 1996. He oversaw the committees, obtained equipment and the venue, contacted participants, and made certain that the event took place. But for Junior, all agree that the Sunset Retreat Ceremony would not happen!

He was born in Calexico, California in 1935 of Mexican and Filipino parents and attended school in Calexico. He joined the Marines in 1953, serving in Korea and leaving active service in 1963. The next 27 years, Junior spent with the Imperial County Sheriff's Department and serving in the California National Guard. He retired from the Guard at the age of 60 with the rank of Sgt. Major.

In addition to his duties with the annual Sunset Retreat, Junior is active with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Korean War Veterans Association, and the 1st Marine Division Association, both in Imperial Valley and in the state of California. He organizes Memorial Day ceremonies, MIA-POW recognitions, and the details of veterans' funerals. He arranges for veterans to visit local schools. He is a frequent participant in events of the Imperial Valley United Veterans Council.

Junior Reclosado is someone who is deeply involved in bringing deserved attention to the contributions of the men and women in the Armed Forces and to our country's veterans. He is a veterans' veteran!

I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor him and his service to his community and to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, due to the inclement weather my flight was cancelled yesterday and I was absent for rollcall vote No. 6 on H.R. 3493, and rollcall vote No. 7 on H.R. 1385.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these rollcall votes.

BILL TO HONOR FORMER GOVERNOR LUIS A. FERRÉ

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, last October, the people of Puerto Rico lost a great man. Former Governor Luis A. Ferré was a visionary who dedicated his life to his country. As Governor from 1968 to 1972, he was a proponent of many projects that ensured great economic development for the island. To honor his life, today I am introducing legislation, as a companion to legislation introduced by Senator RICK SANTORUM in the Senate, to designate the Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building, located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, PR, as a tribute to his life and work.

Former Governor Ferré was a brilliant politician, musician, businessman, and philanthropist who dedicated his life to serving his people and moving Puerto Rico forward. During his term as Governor, he created, among other things, the Environmental Quality Board, the Departments of Natural Resources and Housing, the Office of Youth Affairs, and the Tourism Company. Throughout his life, he also demonstrated his unwavering commitment to Puerto Rican culture and the arts by founding what is now the biggest newspaper in Puerto Rico and the Art Museum of Ponce.

He was an extraordinary man whose efforts and endeavors gave luster to Puerto Rico and to his native city of Ponce. During his years in the public service, he demonstrated true commitment and dedication to his country and his city by initiating public works and creating projects that contributed to the modern and developed Puerto Rico that we enjoy today.

His love for Puerto Rico and its people will live on forever in the hearts of all Puerto Ricans. Giving his name to the U.S. Courthouse and Post Office building in Ponce is a simple but long-lasting way to recognize his work and honor his life, and I ask you to join me in celebrating his life.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate